

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/691,401

Examiner

Horace L. Flournoy

Applicant(s)

NGAI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/17/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 9/22/05 & 10/5/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 3/31/06
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Reginald G. Bragdon
REGINALD G. BRAGDON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Kirk Williams (registration number 42229) on 3/31/06.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the claims:

- Claim 18, line 3: delete "of".

Response to Amendment

The examiner acknowledges the applicant's amendment filed on 1/26/2006. Claims 1-20 are pending. Applicants' arguments have been carefully and respectfully considered in light of the instant amendment.

Acknowledgement of References Cited by Applicant

As required by M.P.E.P. 609(c), the applicant's submission of the Information Disclosure Statement dated **09/22/2005** and **10/05/2005** are acknowledged by the examiner and the cited references have been considered in the examination of the claims now pending. As required by M.P.E.P. 609(c), a copy of the PTOL-1449 initialed and dated by the examiner is attached to the instant office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to **independent claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19**, the claims are allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons set forth on page 4, line 12 through page 5, line 11 of the response received 1/17/2006.

Relevant Prior Art Cited by the Examiner

U.S. Patent Number 6,564,289 (Srinivasan et al.) states in column 4, lines 7-30, "*The present CAM device advantageously allows for increased system performance in circumstances where a CAM device has multiple matching locations with comparand data. The highest priority matching location and/or data stored at that location can be accessed in response to an initial compare instruction. Subsequent RNHPM instructions can then be provided to access lower priority matching locations and/or data stored at lower priority locations in one or more clock cycles. No additional instructions or external pins are required to perform these functions or access the MMR*

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bits. The CAM device does not need to be reset before or after the RNHPM instruction. Additionally, if the CAM device includes validity bits such as skip and empty bits, then these bits are not affected by the RNHPM instruction. The CAM device also does not need to store the comparand data (or mask data) used for the initial compare instruction." However, the cited passage does not teach or suggest the limitations of the independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Horace L. Flournoy whose telephone number is (571) 272-2705. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Sparks can be reached on (571) 272-4201. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239

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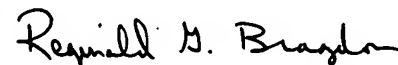
Information regarding the status of an Application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or PUBLIC PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private Pair only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Horace L. Flournoy

Patent Examiner

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REGINALD G. BRAGDON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Supervisory Patent Examiner

Technology Center 2100